

El Camino del Cerro

Boundaries:

The site is bounded approximately by the Rillito River to the north, Shannon Road to the east, El Camino del Cerro Road to the south, and the Santa Cruz River to the west. The closed El Camino del Cerro Landfill occupies approximately 20 acres of land in the southwest portion of the site area, north of El Camino del Cerro Road between the Santa Cruz River and I-10.

Site History:

- The site consists of a former landfill to the southwest of Interstate 10 (I-10) and industrial and residential properties to the northeast of I-10.
- Remedial investigations have been conducted by Pima County in the vicinity of the landfill and northeast of I-10. The remedial investigation included characterization of the nature and extent of groundwater contamination, evaluation of aquifer characteristics near the landfill and characterization of the composition of the landfill gas at the El Camino del Cerro landfill.
- In September 1996, Pima County began the operation of a pilot landfill gas mitigation system flare. This system utilized a series of gas extraction wells that removed landfill gasses from the landfill to a flare where they were burned off.
- In December 1997, Pima County completed the El Camino del Cerro Study Area Landfill and Groundwater Operable Unit Feasibility Study Reports. Addendums to the reports were issued by Pima County in 1999. Landfill cleanup continues, utilizing vapor extraction wells and transport of the extracted gas through piping to an existing biomass filter. Between 20 and 40 pounds of VOCs are removed each week with this system when it is in operation.
- While the landfill is the only confirmed source of groundwater contamination in the site, there are other potential sources of contamination in the area north and east of I-10 that may be adding to the regional groundwater degradation. In May 1997, ADEQ completed the installation of five soil vapor monitoring wells in the area of the El Camino del Cerro Landfill.
- The site was placed on the WQARF Registry in August 1998 with an eligibility and evaluation (E&E) score of 71 out of a possible 120.
- ADEQ conducted initial investigations in the area in the 1990s, including soil gas surveys and a soil removal action along Highway Drive. To date, ADEQ has completed nine rounds of quarterly groundwater monitoring and initiated field investigation activities at the properties along the I-10 frontage road, the former E.C. Winter Oil facility, and portions of the former AMRI Oil facility. ADEQ installed six new monitoring wells in the area northeast of I-10 in the spring and summer of 2003.

- A site investigation of the former E.C. Winter Oil property was completed and an engineering evaluation/cost analysis was issued. The Winter Oil facility was a used oil recycling facility from before 1967 until 1974. The property has been a residential property since the cessation of the Winters operation. In Fall 2001, ADEQ excavated surface and near surface contaminated soil for disposal in a permitted landfill.

Site Status:

- New monitor wells were recently installed in the northeastern section of the site, and a few more are planned to be installed as property access becomes available. The new wells have been designed to better define the extent of contamination and determine the site's relationship to the groundwater contamination at the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF site. The data gathered will be used to complete ADEQ's remedial investigation of the site on the northeastern side of I-10.
- Soil vapor investigations at the former E.C. Winter Oil and AMRI Oil properties have been completed. The data gathered will be used to determine the significance of these potential contamination source areas and any risks they may pose.

Site Hydrogeology:

- The site is located within the Cortaro Basin, a block fault subbasin of the Tucson Basin. The Tucson Basin is a broad, northwest sloping alluvial valley surrounded by mountain ranges and can be divided into four geologic units: the Pantano Formation, Tinaja Beds, Fort Lowell Formation, and recent alluvial deposits.
- The Tucson Basin is drained to the northwest by the Santa Cruz River and the Rillito Creek, one of the major Santa Cruz River tributaries.
- The Santa Cruz River is an ephemeral stream that flows as a result of seasonal storm events. Effluent released from the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant provides a perennial source of flow in the Santa Cruz River adjacent to the site.
- Depth to groundwater ranges from 120 to 135 feet below ground surface in the area.

Contaminants:

The current contaminants of concern at the site include tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), vinyl chloride, and benzene. Contaminants of concern at the site may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

There are risks associated with exposure to volatile organic contaminants, principally through drinking contaminated groundwater. Many of the private wells along Casa Grande Highway and Highway Drive were impacted by the contamination. In April of 1987, Pima County began

supplying bottled water to businesses along I-10, and in late 1989, Pima County purchased the private wells and connected the properties to the municipal water system. Since no one is known to be drinking contaminated water, no one is known to be at risk of exposure to the contaminants.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) conducted a preliminary risk assessment to address potential and/or current exposure to chemical in groundwater and soil at the site. The preliminary risk assessment has been used to guide the investigation at the site as well as to help determine if a health effects study in the area is warranted. A final risk assessment will be completed prior to selection of a remedy for the site.

Community Involvement Activities:

A community advisory board (CAB) was formed in October 2000 in conjunction with the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF site and meets on a regular basis. These meetings are open to the public. The CAB meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed at <http://www.adeq.az.us/environ/waste/sps/reg.html>.

Information Repositories:

Interested parties can review site information at the information repository at the Nanini Library located at 7300 North Shannon Road in Tucson, (520) 791-4626. Site information is also available at both ADEQ's Southern Regional Office located at 400 W. Congress, Suite 433 in Tucson, and the main office located at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix. Files are available for review Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call (520) 770-3361 to arrange a file review appointment at the Southern Regional Office or the ADEQ Records Center (602) 771-4378 or (800) 234-5677 (Arizona toll-free).

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* In Arizona, but outside the Tucson area, call toll-free at (888) 271-9302.